

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 /098 W

-----281438Z 008267 /44

R 281224Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1620

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 101

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: PROVISIONALS RESUME ATTACKS ON ARMY IN
SOUTH ARMAGH

1. THREE ARMY PATROLS IN SOUTH ARMAGH WERE FIRED ON BY PROVISIONAL IRA GUNMEN OVER THE WEEKEND. THE ARMY RETURNED FIRE IN EACH INCIDENT BUT THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF CASUALTIES FROM EITHER SIDE. IN AT LEAST ONE OF THE EXCHANGES IT APPEARS THAT THE ATTACKERS ESCAPED INTO THE REPUBLIC BUT THE PROVISIONAL IRA SOUTH ARMAGH UNIT HAS DENIED THAT THE ATTACKS WERE MOUNTED FROM ACROSS THE BORDER. THE PROVISIONAL STATEMENT INCLUDED THREATS TO INTENSIFY THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SECURITY FORCES IN THE AREA AND TO CLASSIFY AS LEGITIMATE TARGETS THOSE "INVOLVED IN THE PROMOTION OF BRITISH ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND THEREBY ASSISTING THE BRITISH WAR MACHINE." SOUTH ARMAGH HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET FOR A YEAR AND THIS IS CREDITED IN PART AT LEAST TO THE PRESENCE OF THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE THERE. THERE IS SPECULATION IN BELFAST THAT THE PROVISIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOFT TARGETS OF BUSINESSMEN HAS HAD ADVERSE PROPAGANDA EFFECT AND THAT THEY WILL NOW SEEK TO RESTORE

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IMAGE OF BRAVERY. THERE WERE TWO SNIPER ATTACKS ON ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY PATROLS IN BELFAST DURING WEEKEND.

2. ONE MALE CATHOLIC KILLED AND THREE INJURED IN EXPLOSION OF MINI-BUS AT GREENISLAND NORTH OF BELFAST MARCH 25. ATTACK WAS APPARENTLY SECTARIAN MOUNTED BY PROTESTANT PARAMILITARY GROUP. VICTIMS WERE EMPLOYEES OF TUNNEY

MEAT COMPANY WITH HEADQUARTERS IN CLONES IN REPUBLIC AND
WERE ON TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT TO WHITE ABBEY FACTORY FORMERLY
ABBAY MEATS NOW OWNED BY IRISH CITIZEN. THIS THIRD ATTACK ON
ABBAY MEAT WORKERS DURING TROUBLES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GROUND FORCES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELFAS00101
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770105-1009
Format: TEL
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770317/aaaaaolx.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2981815
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROVISIONALS RESUME ATTACKS ON ARMY IN SOUTH ARMAGH
TAGS: PINS, PINT, UK, EI, IRA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b9ee39b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009